## What does a First-Grade daily Math Block look like?



# At Home Math Advice for Parents 

## 6 Ways to set your child up for success

1. Encourage children to play math puzzles and games. Puzzles and games -anything with dicewill help kids enjoy math, and develop number sense, which is critically important.
2. Always be encouraging and never tell kids they are wrong when they are working on math problems. Use statements such as, Oh I see what you were thinking, you are using what you know about addition to solve for 3 and 4 , but when we subtract we take 3 away from 4 .
3. Never associate math with speed. It is not important to work quickly, and we know that forcing kids to work quickly on math is the best way to start math anxiety for children. When using flash cards, do not emphasize speed over accuracy.
4. Never share with your children the idea that you were bad at math in school, or dislike it.
5. Encourage number sense. What separates high and low achievers in number sense - having an idea of the size of numbers and being able to separate and combine number flexibly. For example, when working on $11+20$, if you take one from the 11 and make it $10+20$, it is much easier to solve. The flexibility to work with numbers in this way is number sense.
6. Encourage a "growth mindset" let students know that they have unlimited math potential and that being good at math is all about working hard. When children have a growth mindset, they do well with challenges and do better in school overall. When children have fixed mindsets and they encounter challenging work, they often conclude that they are not "a math person". One way in which parents encourage a fixed mindset is by telling their children they are "smart" when they do something well. That seems like a wonderful thing to do, but it sets children up for difficulties later, as when kids fail at something they will inevitably conclude that they aren't smart after all. Use growth praise such as "It is great that you have learned that", "I really like your thinking about that". When they tell you something is hard for them, or they have made a mistake, tell them: "That's wonderful, your brain is growing!'
